

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/661,468

Applicant(s)

MA ET AL.

Examiner

Ha D. Ho

Art Unit

3681

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Application filed 9/11/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-17.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 11 September 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Johnson on 10/18/04.
3. During the interview, Applicant agreed to amend the abstract and claims 1, 5-8 and 14-17 to correct informalities without changing the scope of the invention. The application has been amended as follows:

Abstract

- Line 1, "The present invention provides a" have been changed to --A--.
- Line 1, --is provided-- have been inserted after "mechanism".
- Lines 3-4, "of the invention" have been deleted.
- Lines 6-7, "of the invention" have been deleted.

Claims

- Claim 1, line 3, "the" has been changed to --a--.
- Claim 1, line 5, "the" (both occurrences) have been changed to --a--.
- Claim 1, line 7, "the" has been changed to --a--.
- Claim 5, line 2, "said differential" have been changed to --a differential--.
- Claim 6, line 2, "said differential" have been changed to --a differential--.

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- Claim 7, line 2, “said differential” have been changed to --a differential--.
- Claim 8, line 2, “said differential” have been changed to --a differential--.
- Claim 14, line 2, “the” has been changed to --an--.
- Claim 15, line 2, “the” has been changed to --an--.
- Claim 16, line 2, “the” has been changed to --an--.
- Claim 17, line 2, “the” has been changed to --an--.

4. The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record does not disclose or render obvious a motivation to provide for a transmission mechanism for driving four wheels of an automotive vehicle as defined by the limitations of claim 1; including a driving power input shaft having a first dual tandem gear slidably mounted thereon; a core shaft having a differential mechanism mounted thereon; sixth and seventh gears connected with the core shaft; a rear right wheel output shaft having an eighth gear fixed thereto; a rear left wheel output shaft having a ninth gear fixed thereto; a middle shaft having left, middle and right gears mounted thereon; a front right wheel output shaft having a clutch gear and a tenth gear mounted thereon, and a front left wheel output shaft connected with the tenth gear, into which the front right wheel output shaft is extended; wherein the right gear meshes with a ring gear of the differential mechanism, and the first dual tandem meshes with either the left gear or middle gear.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

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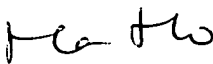
fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Cited Prior Art

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Bock'320, Yun'043, Fleytman et al.'167, Ikeda'354, and Iwamoto'356 which each shows a transmission mechanism for a four wheel drive vehicle including a plurality of output shafts, and a differential gear unit.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ha D. Ho whose telephone number is (703) 305-0738. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-2168.

HDH
(703) 305-0738
October 19, 2004


HAHO
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Art Unit 3681 10/19/04